

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 1223

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO, MNUC

SUBJECT: CONSULTATIONS ON NUCLEAR ASPECTS OF NUNN AMENDMENT

REF: A. USNATO 0741

B. USNATO 0645

C. STATE 30392

D. USNATO 0554

1. AS WASHINGTON IS AWARE, WE INFORMED PERMREPS AT THE FEBRUARY 11 NPG PERMREPS MEETING (REFS A, B, C) THAT WE INTENDED TO ENGAGE IN FURTHER CONSULTATIONS ON NUNN NUCLEAR REPORT TO CONGRESS, AND THAT WE WISHED TO DO THIS BEFORE MIDDLE OF MARCH. WE HAVE NOT TOLD ALLIES HOW WE PROPOSE TO CONDUCT SUCH CONSULTATIONS. MISSION PROVIDED INITIAL GENERAL IDEAS ON THIS SUBJECT IN REF D. THIS MESSAGE PROVIDES MORE SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS.

2. MISSION BELIEVES PREFERRED APPROACH WOULD BE TO HAVE
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APPROPRIATELY HIGH-LEVEL WASHINGTON OFFICIAL, PERHAPS MR. DONALD COTTER, PARTICIPATE WITH AMBASSADOR BRUCE IN A MEETING OF NPG PERMREPS TO DESCRIBE WHAT WE EXPECT TO SAY IN THE REPORT TO CONGRESS, AND TO ANSWER ALLIES' QUESTIONS POSED

AT THAT TIME. IF US OFFICIAL SPEAKS FROM PREPARED TEXT, HE SHOULD EXPECT THAT ALLIES WILL REQUEST HIM TO CIRCULATE TEXT AFTER MEETING. ALSO, MISSION BELIEVES WE SHOULD CIRCULATE TO ALLIES GENERAL OUTLINE OF U.S. REPORT TO CONGRESS PRIOR TO THE MEETING. WE UNDERSTAND THAT SYG LUNS WILL BE OUT OF TOWN DURING MARCH 13-15. SINCE WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE FOR HIM TO CHAIR MEETING, BEST TIME WOULD APPEAR TO BE DURING WEEK OF MARCH 17 - PREFERABLY ON MARCH 17 OR 18.

3. AS MISSION NOTED IN REF D, RELATED QUESTION IS WHETHER WE SHOULD CIRCULATE TO ALLIES A DRAFT OF THE REPORT TO CONGRESS AS BASIS FOR DISCUSSION. WHILE THERE ARE GOOD ARGUMENTS ON BOTH SIDES OF THIS ISSUE, WE HAVE CONCLUDED, ON BALANCE, THAT WE SHOULD NOT DO SO. DANGER IN SUBMITTING DRAFT BEFORE CONSULTATION WOULD BE THAT DOING SO MIGHT DRAW ALLIES INTO DETAILED DISCUSSION OF SUBSTANCE AND WORDING OF DRAFT, THUS PUTTING US IN POSITION EITHER OF ALLOWING ALLIES OPPORTUNITY TO DETERMINE PRECISE LANGUAGE OF THE REPORT TO CONGRESS, OR OF DECLINING TO INCORPORATE THEIR DETAILED SUGGESTIONS. WE THINK EITHER COURSE WOULD BE UNWISE. WHILE WE SHOULD BE FRANK AND FORTHCOMING IN DESCRIBING WHAT WE EXPECT TO SAY IN THE REPORT, MAKING CLEAR OUR EFFORTS TO TAKE ALLIED POLITICAL AND MILITARY VIEWS FULLY INTO ACCOUNT, WE SHOULD NOT LEAVE IN QUESTION US PREROGATIVES IN PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION OF A REPORT TO MEET A NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENT. WE BELIEVE OUR ALLIES WILL RESPECT SUCH PREROGATIVES, AND WILL BE SATISFIED WITH CONSULTATIVE APPROACH DESCRIBED IN PARA 2 ABOVE. MISSION SUGGESTS, HOWEVER, THAT, PROVIDING CUSTOM IN DEALING WITH CONGRESS PERMITS, WE PROVIDE TO ALLIES, AS A COURTESY, COPIES OF FINAL REPORT AT THE SAME TIME OR SHORTLY BEFORE SUBMITTING IT TO CONGRESS.

4. WE SHOULD INFORM ALLIES VERY SOON OF OUR PLANS AND MAKE APPROPRIATE ARRANGEMENTS. MISSION REQUESTS EARLY WASHINGTON GUIDANCE.
BRUCE

CONFIDENTIAL

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